

Dear  
Broken Arrow  
Residents:

It is my pleasure to be able to greet you in this, the first monthly newsletter from the City of Broken Arrow to its citizens. It is our goal to keep you better informed about events coming up in our city, as well as any changes coming out of City Hall that affect you. We're going to do our best to make this brief newsletter interesting, informative, and hopefully a bit entertaining.



Broken Arrow is a great place to live, work, and raise a family. We have wonderful schools, churches, and recreational facilities. We have a solid base of manufacturing jobs, a growing number of good places to eat and shop, and we are rated as the "Safest City in Oklahoma."

Your City Council, City Administration, and nearly 600 City Employees pledge to you to work to make Broken Arrow an even better place in years to come! With your help and input, we can work together to get better public streets, parks, and other facilities, attract more quality retail shopping and restaurants, and make the quality of life in Broken Arrow even better.

Exciting things are happening in Broken Arrow! In future issues, we will let you know about street construction, trash pickup day changes, festivals, and new development coming into the city. Call the City Action Center at 258-3587 if you have concerns or suggestions, or call any City Council member. Our phone numbers are available elsewhere in this newsletter, or may be found on the City Web Page at [www.brokenarrowok.gov](http://www.brokenarrowok.gov).

Best wishes,  
Richard Carter  
Mayor

## Downtown Renovation Plan in the Works

With the help of funding from Vision 2025, plans are being made to reshape the face of Broken Arrow's downtown area -- and citizens of the community are playing a key part in that planning.

Funds from Vision 2025 were used to start the process of revitalizing the downtown area as the City Council hired a consulting firm from Colorado to work with a committee of citizens in addressing the key issues for the future -- and how to accomplish their goals.

Initial recommendations called for "anchors" at both the south and north ends of the downtown area. The Performing Arts Center approved by Broken Arrow Public School voters will anchor the south end and the old Central Middle School would anchor the north end -- with future plans for a new City Hall in that same area.

Originally, the north anchor was also seen as a possible site for a new library in Broken Arrow. But the defeat of the Dec. 14 library bond issue has left that up in the air.



## Homeowners Workshop Set for Feb. 19

Once again this year the City of Broken Arrow will be holding a half-day workshop for members of Homeowners Associations in the community in an effort to answer as many of their questions as possible.

The program will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Central on Main (the old Central Middle School).

Representatives from the City's police and fire departments will be on hand, as well as Planning, Engineering, Inspections and special representatives on accounting and law.

The format will be centered around five concurrent workshop areas, with each group having a 25-minute discussion period. Those attending can rotate through the five workshops throughout the morning. One will be on inspections, permits, and code enforcement; another on zoning and development; a third on public safety; the fourth on Home Owners Association Operations and private legal issues; and the fifth on HOA business issues, such as insurance and accounting. The information is intended to be general in nature and not applied to specific situations.

## Oklahoma's Safest City

Broken Arrow has been rated the "Safest City" in Oklahoma according to a report from the Morgan Quitno Press in Lawrence, Ks. The research and publishing company has been compiling these reports the past 11 years based on FBI Uniform Crime Reports from cities of 75,000 and above population. Broken Arrow is No. 46 nationally, with Norman (86) the only other state city in the Top 100. Tulsa is No. 304 of the 354 cities listed.

## Filing Period for City Council Set Feb. 7-9

There will be two Broken Arrow City Council positions up for election in 2005, and the filing period for those seats has been set from 8 a.m. Monday, Feb. 7, through 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9. Council members from Wards 1 and 2 will be selected in the vote on Tuesday, April 5.

Those Council members are Mayor Richard Carter and Vice-Mayor Craig Thurmond.

Candidates for those seats must be registered voters at an address within the City and must be an actual resident of the ward from which the person is a candidate for at least six months prior to filing a declaration of candidacy.

Newly elected Council members will be sworn in on April 18. The other three Council seats will not be up for election again until 2007.



BA FLAG FLYING IN IRAQ -- When BA Police Officer Robert Baird left for a tour of duty in Iraq this year he requested a City of Broken Arrow flag to take with him. Here it is flying high and proud at the Kirkuk Air Base.

## BA Police Officer...

## Baird, Marines Make Find On Sweep

Broken Arrow Police Officer Robert Baird, who is serving a tour of duty in Iraq as a Major in the 506th Air Expeditionary Group (AEG), was cited by the Air Force for his part in a surprise inspection of areas inhabited by third-country workers and

American contractors which netted unauthorized firearms and alcohol, military uniforms and other merchandise.

The AEG commander stated that the success of the sweep has "set a precedence for future rotations to follow."

Baird took a City of Broken Arrow flag with him when he left for Iraq, and it flies outside his headquarters at the Kirkuk Air Base. He said that the inspections were originally scheduled to "ensure the quality of life issues surrounding our contract workers and make sure chemicals were stored properly for safety reasons." But the sweep proved to be of much more value. "The end result of this operation," he concluded, "was very advantageous. We were able to take guns off the streets, 13 AAFES employees were fired, and we got the message across that we are very serious about force protection on this base."



A SAFER, CLEANER CITY -- Public Works crews have been working in the trenches as they construct a new stormwater drain system along the east side of Elm Place near Pittsburgh. The concrete drain structure has already made an impact on rushing waters during storms in the area.

### Helpful City Phone Numbers

City Hall	251-5311
Police Dept.	259-8400
Emergencies	911
Animal Control	259-8311
Action Center	258-3587
Fire Dept.	259-8360
Parks & Rec.	259-8380
Public Works	259-8373
Municipal Court	259-8424
Utility Payment	259-8409
After Hours Emergencies for Water, Sewer	259-8400

## City Holidays for 2005 Set

Broken Arrow's City Council has approved the official holidays for City employees during the 2005 calendar year, starting with Martin Luther King Jr., Day on Jan. 17. Other holidays will be Good Friday, March 25; Memorial Day, May 30; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, Sept. 5; Veterans Day, Nov. 11; Thanksgiving, Nov. 24-25; and Christmas, Dec. 26.

Utility customers should remember that when a holiday falls on a Monday, those with service on Monday-Thursday will have pickups on Tuesday and Thursday. On those weeks, those with Tuesday-Friday service will have Wednesday-Friday pickups.

## Backwater Devices Avoid Messy Problems, Fines for Homeowners...

Owners of buildings served by the sanitary sewer system of Broken Arrow can avoid some messy, foul-smelling problems and some stiff fines by being sure they have a backwater device installed. Section 24-303 of the Broken Arrow Code provides the following:

"In all instances in which the lowest floor of a building which is served by a sanitary sewer is less than one (1) foot in elevation above the upstream manhole rim of the same sanitary sewer, the owner of the building shall install a backwater device near the building, in a meter can, or in any other enclosure approved by the City, with all working parts readily accessible for service and repairs. Installation of these devices and all maintenance thereon shall be at the expense of the property owner."

Failure to meet the conditions of the ordinance could result in fines not to exceed \$200, plus court costs. In any event, non-compliance effectively exempts the City from all liability in the event of a sewer backup.

Another section of the Code (24-14) makes it unlawful for any person to disturb, cover or otherwise interfere with property under control of the municipal water system. Citizens may not cover meter boxes, manholes or fire hydrants with dirt, vegetation, concrete, vehicles or any other obstruction. There is also a fine not to exceed \$200, plus court costs, for each day the violation exists.

Those with questions, including the location of the nearest manhole, should call the Operations Division, Public Works Dept., at 259-8373.

## Youth Sports Signups

Youth soccer deadline for signups is Jan. 15. Their office is at 803 N. Elm (next to Egg Roll Express), with signups Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Mondays, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.; also Saturday registrations at the office from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Jan. 8 and 15.

Broken Arrow Girls Softball Association fast-pitch registration, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each of those Saturdays at the office at Arrowhead Park Softball Complex. Also Jan. 20 and Jan. 25 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 30, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. On Mondays through Fridays, Jan. 10 to 28, registration at Arrowhead will be available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Girls must have turned 4 or older by Dec. 31, 2004.

Broken Arrow Youth Baseball Registration, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Broken Arrow Youth Sports Building, 1005 S. Main. Also signups scheduled Jan. 8, 15 and Feb. 5 (Saturdays) from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.